

# STATE OF NEBRASKA

## NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

(Nebraska Crime Commission)

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### FOR RELEASE:

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## **7% DECREASE IN CRIMES REPORTED IN NEBRASKA**

**LINCOLN** - Mike Behm, Executive Director of the Nebraska Crime Commission, announced today that Nebraska experienced a 7% decrease in the number of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies during 2008 compared to 2007. Behm indicated there were 54,669 crimes reported during 2008 compared to 58,633 reported in 2007. These numbers include only the offenses of Murder-Manslaughter, Forcible Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Arson which serve as the basis for the Crime Index used to measure crime statewide.

In the violent crime category, Nebraska experienced a 3% increase with 5,307 violent crimes reported during 2008 compared to 5,146 reported in 2007. Murder, Manslaughter increased 5% (from 64 to 67 offenses). Forcible Rape increased 7% (from 516 to 553). Robbery increased 16% (from 1,105 to 1,287) and Aggravated Assault decreased 2% (from 3,461 reported in 2007 to 3,400 reported in 2008).

“The trend in violent crimes in Nebraska continues to differ from the nationwide trend. The FBI recently reported that violent crimes nationwide decreased 2.5% with all of the violent crime categories showing decreases. The only violent crime to show a decrease in Nebraska was Aggravated Assault” said Behm.

In terms of property crime, an 8% decrease occurred with 49,362 offenses reported in 2008 compared to 53,487 reported in 2007. Burglary decreased 4% (from 8,641 reported in 2007 to 8,313 in 2008). Larceny-Theft decreased 7% (from 39,621 to 36,829). Motor Vehicle Theft decreased 19% (from 5,070 to 4,100) and Arson decreased 23% (from 155 in 2007 to 120 in 2008).

“Nationwide burglary was the only property crime to increase while in Nebraska it decreased” said Behm.

Crime in Omaha decreased 8% (from 23,235 offenses reported in 2007 to 21,440 offenses in 2008). Lincoln experienced a 12% decrease (from 13,081 to 11,451). Cities of 5,000 to 99,999 in population saw a 1% increase (from 13,622 to 13,813). Cities under 5,000 population had a 14% decrease (from 1,386 to 1,196 in 2008). County areas reported a 6% decrease (from 6,894 to 6,471). Crime occurring on State Property decreased 7% (from 416 to 388).

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The number of persons arrested in Nebraska during 2008 increased 1% from 2007. In 2008 there were 90,612 arrests compared to 90,081, a decrease of 531 arrests.

The top five categories in terms of number of arrests made during 2008 include: Driving under the Influence (13,952 arrests); Liquor Law Violations (12,943 arrests); Drug Abuse Violations (10,541 arrests); Simple Assault (9,260 arrests), and Larceny-Theft (8,300 arrests).

Adult arrests (involving persons age 18 and over) had a less than 1% increase, from 74,774 arrests in 2007 to 75,001 arrests in 2008. Adult arrests accounted for 83% of the total arrests made statewide.

Juvenile arrests increased 2%, from 15,307 in 2007 to 15,611 in 2008. Increases were seen in Larceny-Theft (from 2,950 to 3,083), Simple Assault (from 1,914 to 1,986), Burglary (from 291 to 341), and Motor Vehicle Theft (from 107 to 130).

Behm said "There was a slight decrease in the number of juvenile arrests for violent crimes (from 254 to 248) but it was still higher than the number reported in 2005 and 2006."

Hate crime statistics were also released. During 2008 there were 98 incidents reported involving crimes motivated by hate. This is a 14% increase from the 86 reported in 2007. Racial bias accounted for 62.2% of the total hate crimes while Sexual bias accounted for 14.3%. Ethnic bias accounted for 12.2% and Religious bias accounted for 11.2%. Of the hate crimes reported, 36.7% involved destruction of property and 33.7% involved simple assault.

**The complete 2008 Preliminary Report is available at the Crime Commission's Internet site at [www.ncc.state.ne.us](http://www.ncc.state.ne.us)**

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